



**The McCusker
Charitable Foundation**

Tip 23 – Listening to kids.

As part of The Fathering Projects involvement with your school, I will be including helpful tips and ideas for all fathers and father – figures. I hope these tips will help, inspire and encourage all fathers and father – figures to be the best that they can be, as all fathers and father – figures are critically important in every child’s life. Tips derived from “The Blue Book of Tips for Fathers and Father-Figures”

More involved fathers and father – figures = better outcomes for children.

- Dads and father-figures often find listening hard.
- Don’t solve, criticise or judge.
- Allow enough time to listen.
- Resist the urge to jump in and lecture to kids.
- Don’t boomerang discussion back to yourself.
- Ask yourself what it is like from their shoes.
- Become curious about their music and interests (e.g. buy and read a magazine about them).
- Ask questions about their favourite websites and about their friends.
- Listen even when you are afraid to hear what they want to tell you.

The Fathering Project is not a counselling service; we are seeking to inspire and equip fathers and father - figures to engage with their children.



If you would like more information about The Fathering Project, you can contact me:
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